**NEW gTLD PROGRAM: NEXT ROUND** 



# Applicant Support Program

**ASP Application System Applicant User Guide** 

09 May 2025 Version 1.1



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This user guide will assist Applicant Support Program (ASP) applicants in understanding how to interact with the ASP Application System.

Applicant users ("applicants") can gain access by registering directly or by invitation from an existing user account. Both means of system access are authenticated through an ICANN Account. If you have signed up for an ICANN Public Meeting or other ICANN services, you likely already have an existing ICANN Account profile.

Once registered, applicants will be able to register their organization. Once their organization has been confirmed by ICANN in the system, the applicant may complete and submit an ASP application on behalf of their organization. At that point they will be able to communicate with ICANN and monitor the status of their application.

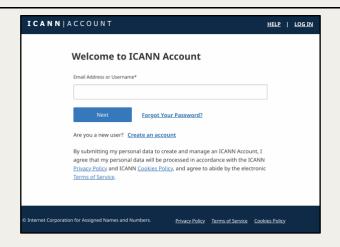
The following sections describe the different processes for ASP applicants available in the ASP Application System.

# 1. How to Register and Sign In to the ASP Application System

 a. ASP applicants can register in the system by navigating to <a href="https://newgtldprogram.icann.org/ap">https://newgtldprogram.icann.org/ap</a> <a href="ply-asp">ply-asp</a>. Users must log in or create an ICANN account to use the ASP Application System.

Access to the ASP Application System from an ICANN account will require users to enable multi-factor authentication (MFA).

b. Once signed in with an ICANN
Account, ASP Application System
users will be able to access the
system only after they review and
agree to the Terms of Use.

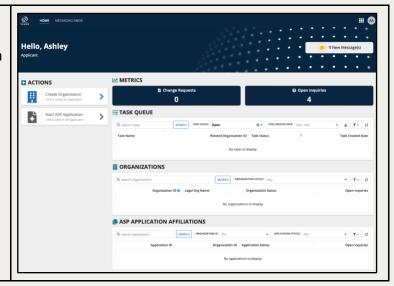






# 2. Viewing the Applicant Dashboard

After accepting the terms of use, applicants will have access to the main dashboard, which will display information about the organization, application, or tasks available for the authenticated user.



# 3. How to Create an Applicant Organization

As an applicant, you can create a new organization from the applicant dashboard by following these steps.

Please note: ASP applicants will be able to use their user account for the gTLD Application Program and transfer relevant information related to the applying entity.

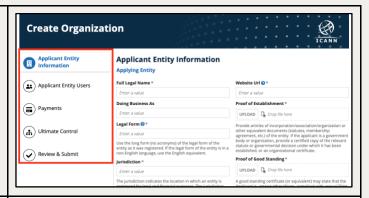
If the organization information provided in the ASP Application System is no longer the same you will be using in the gTLD application, a change request may be required, which could affect your eligibility for support depending on the nature of the change. See <a href="ASP Handbook">ASP Handbook</a> for more information.

- After logging into the ASP Application System, you will see the ASP Applicant Dashboard.
- Select the Create Organization action option on the left side of the screen. This will allow you to create an organization as the entity that will receive support.



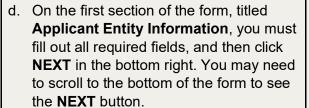


c. After selecting Create Organization, a form will appear with several sections and fields to fill out. The sections will be listed on the top left corner of the screen and will allow the applicant to navigate directly between sections as needed.



NOTE: There is a "**SAVE & CLOSE**" option at the bottom of each section of the form.

- To proceed to the next section of the form, you must select **NEXT**.
- To save your changes, close, and return to your Drafted Organization later, you must select SAVE & CLOSE.
- The CANCEL option will return you to the main dashboard without saving any changes.

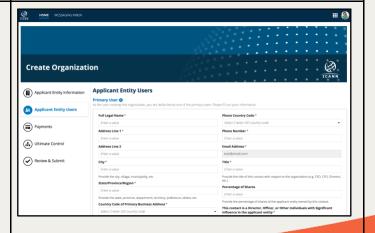


Note: All fields marked with an asterisk are required. The form will allow you to complete other sections, but you will be unable to submit the application if any of the required fields are not completed.

e. In the second section of the Create
Organization form, titled Applicant
Entity Users, you must enter
information for the first Primary User of
your organization and provide
information about an Additional Primary
User. The Additional Primary User will
receive an invitation to access the ASP
Application System once ICANN has
reviewed and confirmed the
organization. See How to Invite
Stakeholders to the ASP Application









<u>System</u> for details on accepting an invitation to become an organization user.

Note: Each organization is required to provide two Primary Users with different email addresses. Each user will have the same ability to submit the ASP application and to check the status of the application, respond to inquiries, and complete other tasks as needed. This also provides a means to protect the applicant's access to the system should one of the Primary Users lose their credentials.

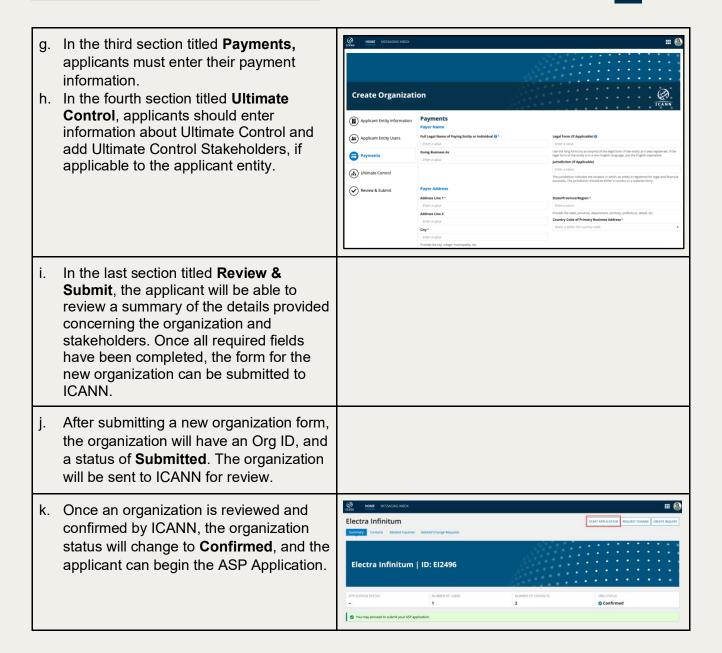
f. In the Applicant Entity Users section of the form, under the Applicant Entity Stakeholders subsection, the applicant must list the organization's stakeholders that fall in any of the following categories: directors, officers/partners, legal/executive representatives, and shareholders with ownership of 15% or more.

The applicant can add up to eighteen entity stakeholders for the organization by clicking the "Add New Stakeholder" option.

Note: Applicant entity stakeholders provided will not be considered system users and will not be able to access the organization or application in the applicant dashboard unless they are invited to use the system (see section <a href="How to Invite Stakeholders to">How to Invite Stakeholders to</a> the ASP Application System).







### 4. How to Invite Stakeholders as Additional Users

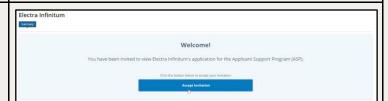
Once ICANN has reviewed and confirmed an organization, an applicant who is a Primary User of an organization may invite up to five applicant entity stakeholders to be additional Users and register ICANN Applicant User accounts with their organization.



- a. Navigate to the Contacts tab on the Organization Summary and click Invite User in the column titled ASP Applicant User.
- Invited stakeholders will receive an email notification. Stakeholders will need to sign in or create an ICANN account in order to access the ASP Application System.



- After logging in with their ICANN
   account to reach the ASP Application
   System the user will be able to accept
   the invitation.
- d. The new user must accept the Terms of Use before being taken to the Applicant Dashboard.
- e. If the invitation has expired, Primary Users must repeat Step 4.a to send a new invitation.



After organization stakeholders are added to the ASP Application System as additional users to the applicant, they will be able to view their application, edit an unsubmitted application, and respond to inquiries. Please see the table below for more details.

Actions	Primary Users	Additional Users
Draft and submit an application	<b>~</b>	~
View, submit and respond to inquiries	<b>&gt;</b>	<b>~</b>
Invite additional users to the organization	<b>~</b>	×
Submit an organization change request	<b>&gt;</b>	×
Submit an application change request	<b>~</b>	×
Withdraw a submitted application	~	×
Request extended evaluation	~	×
Validate payment information	✓	×



# 5. How to View the Applicant Task Queue

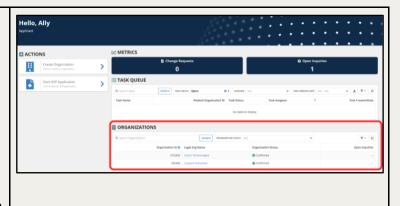
Whenever an action is required from an applicant, a corresponding task will be created in the system.

- a. On the Applicant Dashboard, the authenticated applicant user can view all tasks assigned to their organization(s), sorted by default by created date.
- Applicants are also able to filter tasks by Task Name, Task Status, and Task Created Date.
- To open any given task, click on the name of the task in the **Task Name** column.



# **6.** How to View an Organization

- a. Applicants can view their organization within the system by selecting from the
   "ORGANIZATIONS" grid on the
  - "ORGANIZATIONS" grid on the Applicant Dashboard.
- This section will list the organizations that have been created by the authenticated user or that the user has been invited to be a part of as an additional user.
- c. Applicants can view the organization details by clicking the organization name.



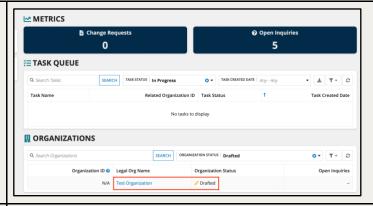


# 7. How to Update a Drafted Organization

Applicants can continue to update their organization as desired while in a "**Drafted**" status before submitting to ICANN for review, by taking the following steps:

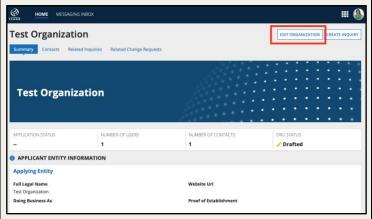
 Select the **Drafted** Organization from the organizations grid on the Applicant Dashboard.

Note that an organization will have a **Drafted** status if the applicant selected **SAVE & CLOSE** instead of **SUBMIT** when creating the Organization.



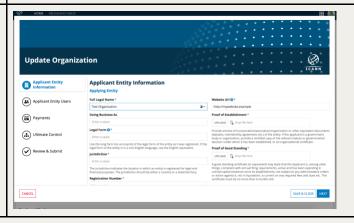
Applicants can click the EDIT
 ORGANIZATION button in the top right corner of the organization's summary page.

Note: This option will not appear for organizations that have been already submitted or if another user is editing the organization at the same time.



After selecting the EDIT
 ORGANIZATION button, an Update
 Organization form will appear. Use the form to complete and update the organization details until submission.

Note: If you need to update an application after submission, please see "How to submit a Change Request".



# 8. How to Submit an Application

After the applicant organization is reviewed and appears in the applicant dashboard as **Confirmed**, applicants may complete and submit their ASP applications to ICANN for review and evaluation.



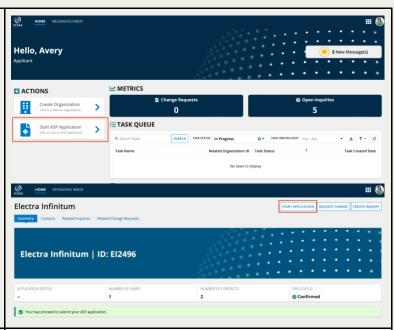
An applicant can begin an ASP
 Application for any organization
 that has been confirmed by
 ICANN from the Applicant
 Dashboard.

Alternatively, the applicant can also begin an ASP Application from the Organization Summary.

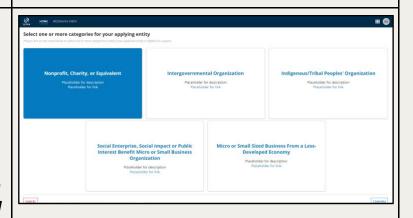
Note: Only one application may be submitted for each organization.

- b. From the Applicant Dashboard, select the **Start ASP Application** option from the top left side of the screen. The applicant will then be required to select the related organization from a dropdown menu that contains all confirmed organizations associated with the authenticated user that are not yet associated with an application. If the application was started from within the Organization Summary, the user will not be asked to select the organization again.
- The applicant will be required to select one or more Eligible Entity
   Categories to describe the applying entity.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Applicants are encouraged to select all applicable categories so the application can be evaluated accordingly. As described in section 4.5 of the <u>ASP Handbook</u>, changes to the selected









# eligible entity categories and resubmissions are not permitted.

- d. The applicant will be required to answer all questions in the application form as described in the ASP Handbook.
- e. For questions that require document uploads, please note the following:
  - Applicants can add up to five (5) individual documents using the link titled Add a new document.
  - Applicants can use the red x in the last column of the grid to remove an uploaded document.
  - Documents should preferably be submitted in PDF format, although PNG and JPG formats are allowed if PDF is not available. Documents must be less than 5 mb in size.
  - The Original Document, Document Title, and Language of Original Document fields must be completed for each document row.
- f. The applicant can navigate between sections of the application form using the Table of Contents on the left or by using the **NEXT** button at the bottom of the screen.







- g. The applicant can cancel the form at any time, which will delete any and all changes. Please note: if the Application form has never been saved, canceling the form means that all progress will be lost.
- h. The applicant can **SAVE & CLOSE** at any time, thus saving the application to be updated later.

  This is the only way progress on the Application form can be saved.
- The application will remain in **Drafted** status, and can be accessed from the Applicant Dashboard.
- j. The applicant can navigate to the last section of the Application form titled **Review & Submit** to view any questions that have not yet been answered. Once all required questions have been answered, the applicant must click **SUBMIT** to submit the ASP application to ICANN for review.
- k. Once the applicant submits the application, they will return to the Applicant Dashboard or organization summary, from which they started the application.
- I. The status of the application will be changed to **In Review.**

Note: During the review period ICANN may issue clarifying questions to the applicant through inquiries in the ASP Application System (See <u>How to access the Messaging Inbox</u>).

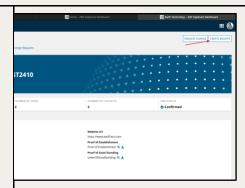
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New Applicant St	upport Program Application for	Consolidated Security	
A Prease note that this form includes a to ASP.1. Public Responsibility Due Diligence ASP.2. Financial Evaluation	Arries the questions that may cause unsuccessful evaluation or prevent submission before submission before submission.		
ASP.3. Nonprofits, Charities, or	Section	Validation Items	
Equivalent	ASP.1. Public Responsibility Due Diligence	No missing questions or validations	
Equivalent Review & Submit	ASP.1. Public Responsibility Due Diligence ASP.2. Financial Evaluation	No missing questions or validations  No missing questions or validations	
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# 9. How to Submit an Inquiry

Applicants may submit inquiries regarding the Organization Form or the application, including specific questions in the application, to ICANN.



a. Organization Form Inquiries: An inquiry regarding the Organization Form may be created from the Organization Summary page.



 Application Inquiries: An inquiry about the application itself can be created from the Application Summary page.

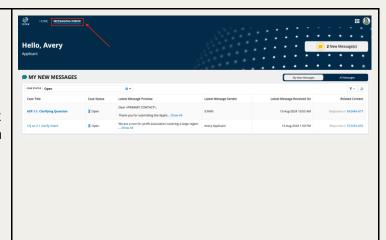


c. Application Question Inquiries:
An inquiry about a specific question in the application form can be created from the Application Create form and the Application Summary page, by clicking the icon on the right.



# 10. How to Access and View Inquiries in the Messaging Inbox

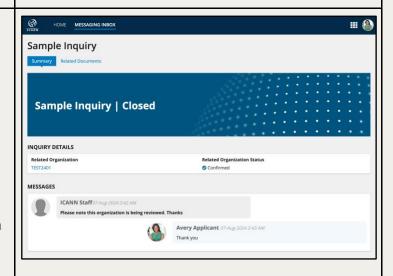
- Authenticated users can access the Messaging Inbox by clicking on the top section of the screen, the New Message notification, or the Related Inquiries view of an application.
- This Messaging Inbox screen will list all inquiries related to the organization and applications associated with the authenticated user.
- The filters on the top right section will allow you to select All Messages, or My New Messages to select only





inquiries where the latest message came from ICANN.

- d. ICANN may also send an inquiry to the applicant to issue clarifying questions or to notify the applicant of updates in the processing of the ASP Application. Primary and additional users of the corresponding organization will be notified via email.
- e. To view an inquiry, click on the specific inquiry title shown in the first column of the grid. This will take you to the inquiry detailed view displaying exchanged messages, and the option to add a new message to respond to inquiries that remain open.
- f. The top section will list the title, and the **Inquiry Details** section will display the corresponding organization, application, or application question associated with the inquiry, as applicable.



# **11.** How to Submit a Change Request

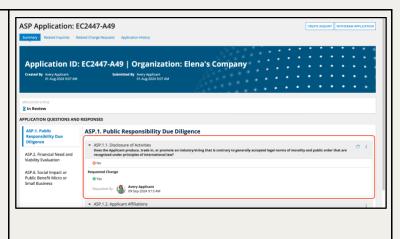
If the information provided in the Organization Form or Application needs to be updated after being submitted to ICANN, applicants must submit a Change Request.



a. Select "REQUEST CHANGE" in ASP Application: EC2447-A49 the upper right-hand corner. The screenshot here shows the option to "REQUEST CHANGE" on a Application ID: EC2447-A49 | Organization: Elena's Company submitted application. In Review APPLICATION QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES ASP.1. Public Responsibility Due Diligence b. Applicants may select which **Application Change Request** STB2474-A87 responses they would like to change by clicking the **Edit** icon. c. The applicant can navigate to different sections using the menu bar on the left. d. Select Review & Submit at the bottom of the menu bar. This will show a summary of the updates to answers being requested. e. Last, provide a rationale for (ANN requesting the change to the application or organization in the "Reason for Changes" field.

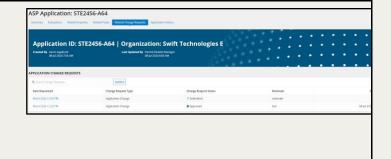


- f. The user will be given another opportunity to confirm the request for changes via a pop-up window.
- g. Please note that after the Change Request has been submitted, the requested changes must be reviewed and approved by ICANN before the application is updated. Applicants can see that a response regarding an application or organization has a pending change request via the icons next to the response labels on the summary page. The screenshot shows the Requested Change from Step 11.b on the Application Summary.



# 12. How to View Related Change Requests

- 1. Applicants are able to see all Change Requests associated with their application or organization.
- From the Application Summary, select the **Related Change Requests** tab to view a table listing all Change Requests associated with the application.



# **13.** How to Validate Payment Information

For applications that complete evaluation with a determination of "Conditionally Approved", ICANN will send a confirmation message to the applicant, along with instructions on how to submit payment of the deposit required by the ASP.



- a. Primary Users of the corresponding organization will receive a new task in their **Task Queue** to validate payment information. This step must be completed before payment can be validated by ICANN and is required before a final determination is made.
- In the Applicant Dashboard, select the Validate Payment Information task to open up a form with a link to your Organization Form.
- c. The instructions will ask you, as the applicant, to review the organization form and ensure that the payment information is up to date.
- d. If you need to change the payment information, you can submit a Change Request for your organization (See <u>How</u> to <u>Submit a Change Request</u>).
- e. Once the payment information for your organization is correct, you can submit the form to complete the validation of payment information.

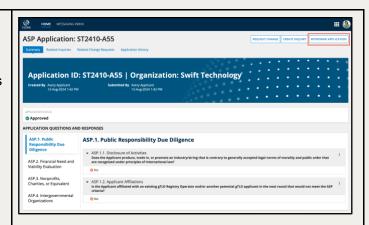


# **14.** How to Withdraw an Application

In the event that an applicant no longer intends to apply for support to submit a gTLD application, they must formally withdraw their ASP application. Once an ASP application is withdrawn, processing is halted and no further action is taken on the application.



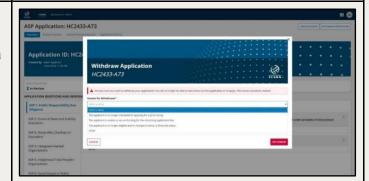
- a. Applicants may withdraw their application at any point during application processing (after submitting the application). The withdrawal action is only available to the Primary Users of the applicant organization.
- You may withdraw your application by clicking WITHDRAW APPLICATION in the upper right-hand corner of the Application Summary.
- c. You are required to select a reason for withdrawal from the dropdown menu; or you may select Other and provide a free text response answer, then click WITHDRAW.



- d. The applicant will be asked again to confirm their application withdrawal via a pop-up window.
- e. When the applicant selects **YES**, the application status will be updated to **Withdrawn**. You will not be able to take any further action on your application after it has been withdrawn.

IMPORTANT NOTE: This action cannot be reversed; resubmissions are not allowed.

f. Once an application is withdrawn, all open tasks and inquiries associated with the application or organization will be closed and you will receive an email confirming that your application has been withdrawn.



# **15.** How to request Extended Evaluation

Applicants that receive a determination of "**Evaluation Not Cleared**" for their ASP Application may have the option to request an Extended Evaluation as outlined in the ASP Handbook.



a. If the applicant decides to opt-in to Extended Evaluation, the applicant must go to the application details screen and select the **EXTENDED EVALUATION** option in the upper right-hand corner of the screen. b. This opens up an **Extended Evaluation** form where applicants can submit the Extended Evaluation request to go through another round of clarifying questions. c. The applicant is required to provide a rationale before submitting the **Extended** Evaluation request to ICANN. d. The applicant will receive a warning popup window confirming they would like to submit the form and request Extended Evaluation. NOTE: ASP Applicants may only request Extended Evaluation one time.

## **Additional Resources**

Resource	Description	Access Link
ASP Homepage	The ASP web page on the New gTLD Program site with important details and dates.	https://newgtldprogram.icann.org/en/ap plication-rounds/round2/asp



ASP Handbook	The ASP Handbook includes information on ASP application deadlines, criteria, processes, and evaluation.	https://newgtldprogram.icann.org/en/application-rounds/round2/asp/handbook
ASP Application System	Access the ASP Application System.	https://newgtldprogram.icann.org/apply -asp
Applicant Support Program Contact	For general inquiries related to the Applicant Support Program, please contact ICANN Global Support.	globalsupport@icann.org
ASP Application System contact	For inquiries regarding your application or using the system, please submit an inquiry through the ASP Application System.	

# **NEW gTLD PROGRAM: NEXT ROUND**



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